

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

DHA-02 /070 W

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P R 231448Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 656

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 9790

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: POLITICAL PRISONERS AMNESTIED

1. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA OF AUGUST 22ND ANNOUNCED THAT EPMG HAS AMNESTIED 209 POLITICAL PRISONERS. PRISONERS WERE RELEASED AUGUST 21ST UPON COMPLETION OF INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES AGAINST THEM.

2. CAPTAIN KASSAYE ARAGAW, CHAIRMAN OF THE PRISONS ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OF THE PMAC WAS QUOTED BY PRESS AS SAYING THAT EPMG DOES NOT SEEK REVENGE AGAINST TROUBLE-MAKERS, BUT WISHES TO REHABILITATE THEM AND RETURN THEM TO THE FOLD OF "THE BROAD MASSES." FORMER DETAINEES RECEIVED THREE DAYS OF "EDUCATIONAL BRIEFINGS" PRIOR TO THEIR RELEASE.

3. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY INFORMANTS, CAPTAIN ASSEFA ASFAW, FORMER CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, ASHENAFI GETACHEW,
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AND A BUSINESSMAN, MAHARI ENDALE, ARE AMONG THOSE

RELEASED, AS IS THE WIFE OF YILMA DERESSA. AS YET
WE HAVE NO NAMES OF THOSE OTHERS RELEASED.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE CANNOT BE SURE AT THIS POINT,
WE TEND TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT
KONJIT SINE-GHEORGHIS TOLD US IN COLOMBO WOULD BE
"WELCOME IN WASHINGTON" (COLOMB 2865), END COMMENT.
TIENKEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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